

MISD Questions Why It’s on State List

Submitted Article
Menominee Indian School District

Menominee Indian School District officials are questioning why the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction placed the entire District on its “in need of improvement list.” “While we certainly have challenges, which we are working on, by no means is every school failing to make the grade on standardized testing,” said MISD Superintendent Wendell Waukau. “In fact, we are making significant progress in many areas and the trend in improving test results shows that. It is not doing any good to stigmatize the entire District, its schools, students and teachers by giving the impression we are failing to meet educational needs and requirements.”

Keshena Primary School is not on any list for improvement, and hasn’t been for the past year.

Menominee Indian High School was placed on the list after the 2003-2004 school year because the number of students taking the test did not meet the state-required 95% of enrollment.

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Ground Breaking held for New Gas Station



B. Penass/MNN

A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 23, 2005 for a gas station to be located by the Menominee Public Transportation Building. The gas station is scheduled to be open by Labor Day. Pictured above (l-r) is Lew Boyd, James Horton, Bernie Vigue, Tony Warrington, Karen Washinawatok and Ken ‘BumBum’ Fish.

Roberta Penass
Menominee Nation News

On Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 1 p.m. a Ground Breaking Ceremony was held for the “New Menominee Gas Station”.

This ceremony took place next to the Menominee Transit Department.

The gas station will be located across from the Menominee Casino and next to the Menominee Transit Department. Those that attended the ground breaking ceremony were: Menominee Tribal Legislatures: Karen Washinawatok, Anthony Warrington and Kenneth Fish. Others in attendance were Lew

Boyd-Economic Development Manager, Rick Warrington-Contractor, Bernard Vigue-Community Development Director, Shawn Klemens-Menominee Transit Manager, Joe Mentzer-Northern Environmental and James Horton-Housing

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Menominee Tribal Enterprises honored for Outstanding Management of Resources

Submitted Article
Northeastern Loggers Association

Bangor, ME - The Northeastern Loggers' Association (NELA) recently honored Menominee Tribal Enterprises of Neopit, WI as its 2005 Outstanding Management of Resources award winner. NELA President Jack Frost, Sr. presented the award at the Annual Loggers' Banquet in Bangor, ME in a ceremony attended by over 300 members of the Northeast's forest products industry.

“The Menominee people have long recognized the need for balance between the environment, community, and economy, both

in the short term and for future generations. Menominee culture and tradition teaches to never take more resources than are produced within natural cycles so that all life can be sustained. These traditional beliefs are the foundation of the management practices and principles of the Menominee Tribal Enterprises and their allegiance to the 220,000 acres of the Menominee forestland” said Frost in his remarks.

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Director along with some of his staff members from the Menominee Housing Department. After the ground breaking ceremony, a meeting was held at the Menominee Transit department to discuss further details on the New Menominee Gas Station.

This will not be a convenience store. This gas station will sell only one grade of low octane gasoline. Some what on the order of the Menominee Tribal Enterprise mill operation. Tax free gas will be offered to enrolled Menominee members only.

The opening of new gas station is stated to open on Labor Day. The gas station will be open 24 hours/7 days a week.

The gas station will be operated by the Menominee Transit Department.

Menominee Nation News will keep you informed of the progress.

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"The Menominee Forest stands as a monument to the foresight of the tribe's ancestors who recognized the bounty they inherited. Today, because they acted as responsible stewards of the resource for future generations, today's generation enjoys, cherishes, and is sustained by the resources so wisely planned for and managed by them," Frost concluded.

The Northeastern Loggers' Association, headquartered in Old Forge, NY, is a trade group representing over 2,000 members of the Northeast's logging, sawmilling, and paper industry. The Loggers' Banquet is held each year immediately prior to the Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition.

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"This past year, MIHS did meet the requirement," explained Waukau, "but in order to be taken off the list, you have to meet the requirements for two years in a row. So next year that issue should be resolved."

At the Menominee Indian Middle School, the only subject area placed on the need for improvement list was in math. "We have had some challenges in that area, and we do need to improve achievement," said Waukau. "We now have stable staff in the math department, we have allocated additional resources and we are looking at revisions in the program. We fully intend to improve learning in that area."

"What this entire district designation does is take away from what I believe are impressive gains in other areas," said Waukau. "Overall, our trends are very positive." Among the gains: Dramatically improving reading skills. From 1998 to 2004, the number of 3rd grade students achieving the advanced/proficient level in reading went from less than 38% to 84%. For all students in the district, that number has gone from under 40% to 65.5%.

2004 Fourth Grade testing shows achievements of:

- 63% at proficient or advanced levels in language arts
- 61% at proficient or advanced levels in math.
- 67% at proficient or advanced levels in science
- 94% at proficient or advanced levels in social studies

2004 Eighth Grade testing shows there are areas in need of improvement; but even in these areas there is a consistent trend showing gains in achievement:

- In Language Arts, 24% reached proficient levels and 40% were at basic levels, which

compares to 0% in proficient and 40% in basic levels in 1997-98.

- In Math, 16% of students reached proficient levels and 44% were at basic levels, which compares to 0% at proficient and 23% at basic levels in 1997-98.
- In Science, 36% students were proficient and 42% were at basic levels, which compares to 9% proficient and 38% basic in 1997-98.
- In Social Studies, 44% of students were at advanced or proficient levels, compared to 0% advanced and 21% at proficient levels in 1997-98.

2004 Tenth Grade testing shows:

- 74% at proficient or basic levels in language arts
- 53% at proficient or basic levels in math
- 40% at proficient or advanced levels in science
- 54% at proficient or advanced levels in social studies

“This clearly shows our schools are improving and our students are learning more than ever before,” added Waukau. “In addition, other measurements also show improvements, including an increasing graduation rate, which for the 2002-2003 school year was 76%. We expect that when our final numbers are in from this most recent school year, that number will be even better.”

Waukau says he intends to discuss the list placement with his school board and they may ask to meet with the DPI to discuss why they were placed on the list. “In addition, we welcome parents, community members and others to call or visit us if they have questions about our schools and test results.” He summed it up by stating, “Of course there are always improvements to be made, and we will make them. We are focused on student learning. But in no way is the entire District in need of improvement.”